

# **MINUTES**

## **TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**5 April 2010**

### **I. ROLL CALL**

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 9:35 AM on Monday, 5 April 2010. Those members in attendance were Mr. Steven K. Hack, Chairperson, Mr. Earl Segal and Mr. Ward Bucher. Ms. Peggy Pickall, Mr. Robert Arnouts, and Mr. Eric Lowery were absent. Representing the County were Mr. Martin Sokolich, and Ms. Florence Ball. Ms. Debbie Dodson, Director of Tourism was also present.

### **II. NETWORKING**

DEBBIE DODSON, TALBOT COUNTY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM – Following brief introductions, Mr. Steven Hack explained to Ms. Debbie Dodson that TCHPC would like to spotlight the various historic sites in Talbot County to encourage more public interest and awareness and to provide people who own HDO properties with more benefits. TCHPC feels that one way to accomplish these goals is to partner with the Department of Tourism. He would like to be able to show to the County Council dollar amounts brought into the county by tourism in order to emphasize how historic preservation enhances the local economy through tourism.

Ms. Debbie Dodson spoke about some of the things her department has been doing to promote tourism in Talbot County. She said bicycle maps had been developed and they had a big kickoff last year for the bike trail through Longwoods, where the Little Red Schoolhouse (T-69) is located. Ms. Dodson and Mr. Martin Sokolich are currently working on a scenic byway program. They recently had the first meeting with consultant Jim Kline who was hired to assist in obtaining State and Federal recognition and certification for the scenic byway program. Ms. Dodson said it would be beneficial to have a TCHPC Commissioner on the committee for this endeavor. One of the goals for the program is to create a list of Stories of the Chesapeake which would be ideal to emphasize. She said there is a meeting scheduled Friday, 9 April from 10am – 12 pm at the Visitor's Center at 11 South Harrison Street across from the Town office. She invited interested TCHPC Commissioners to attend. Mr. Steven Hack said he will plan to attend the meeting.

In terms of revenue, Ms. Dodson revealed that Talbot County tourism generates an average of \$137,000,000 a year, and that most of it goes back to the communities. Approximately \$200,000 a year goes to the County. She asked about historic property tax credits. Mr. Ward Bucher said there are both State and Federal tax incentives available to owners of historic properties for restoration of their historic structures.

Ms. Debbie Dodson said people are frequently asking about walking and driving tours. Mr. Earl Segal suggested creating downloadable podcasts which would be handy to illustrate

highlights of the scenic byway. Water tours of historic properties were also discussed. In summation, Ms. Dodson said one of her main goals is to focus on preserving the fabric of Talbot County heritage and maintaining its ambiance.

### **III. CURRENT BUSINESS**

- A. REVIEW 1 MARCH 2010 MINUTES – The minutes from the meeting on 1 March 2010 were not read due to time constraints. They will be read and approved at the meeting on 3 May 2010.
- B. STATUS OF REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL – This topic was not discussed at this meeting due to time constraints.
- C. 2010 TCHPC BUDGET – Mr. Earl Segal expressed appreciation for Mr. Steven Hack's presentation of the budget before the County Council.
- D. OLD MUSIC HALL – The Commissioners revisited the Old Music Hall to take another look at the stenciling on the back wall of the mechanical room as discussed at last month's meeting. However, due to time constraints, the topic was not discussed at this time. Mr. Martin Sokolich distributed CDs containing the report that was done by Retrospec.
- E. MAY 20-21 PRESERVATION MARYLAND CONFERENCE AT THE TIDEWATER INN – Mr. Steven Hack reminded the Commissioners to register for the conference which was discussed in detail at last month's meeting.
- F. TCHPC MISSION STATEMENT, DUTIES – This topic was not discussed.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. REPORT ON SITE VISIT TO FAIRVIEW (T-60) AND ITINERERY FOR THE APRIL SITE VISIT – A visit made to Fairview on 15 March revealed a lovely, well maintained property. No problems were noted.

Due to time constraints, Mr. Steven Hack did not announce which property would be visited in April. He will notify the Commissioner's of the itinerary by email.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 3 May 2010 at 9:30 am in the Bradley Room in the South Wing of the Courthouse.

BECAUSE A PREVIOUSLY UNSCHEDULED USE OF THE BRADLEY ROOM WAS IMMINENT, THE ABBREVIATED MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:40 am.